

Dear Interested Party,

The Laramie Ranger District of the Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests invites your input on the proposed **Fox Creek Vegetation Management Project** which would treat up to 3,000 acres of National Forest System lands, in Albany County, Wyoming, about 30 miles south east of Laramie, within the Lower Douglas Creek Geographic Area.

This project is separate from the ongoing Medicine Bow Landscape Vegetation Analysis. The Fox Creek project decision will utilize Farm Bill categorical exclusion authority, with an open public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed.

The Fox Creek Vegetation Management Project area lies within part of the central Rocky Mountains which has been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic since approximately 2005, resulting in high mortality within lodgepole pine stands.

This project addresses the need to restore forested lands with declining forest health, accomplish localized fuels reduction, and address public safety concerns due to the increasing number of falling snags. The project would promote a resilient forest through the use of silvicultural harvest treatments including clear cuts, clear cuts with reserves, overstory removal, and thinning, as well as post-harvest treatments including site preparation for natural regeneration or planting of seedlings. The project would maximize the retention of large live trees, as appropriate for the forest type within the designated treatment areas, would prohibit the establishment of permanent roads, and would include decommissioning of temporary roads created by the project within three years of project completion.

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed” (40 CFR § 1501.7). Scoping is required for all Forest Service proposed actions, including those that would appear to be categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (36 CFR 220.4[e][1]).

For this project, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are being conducted concurrently. NEPA scoping letters and notices which invite public comment as part of the NEPA process also serve to notify and invite public comment on the proposal as stipulated by the NHPA.

Your comments would be most helpful by March 21, 2018. In addition, the Laramie Ranger District invites your collaboration; if you would like to attend a fieldtrip to explore ideas for collaboration related to this project, contact the Laramie Ranger District by March 21, 2018. More information about this project is available at the Laramie Ranger District office and at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53419>

Please direct your comments, interest to come to a collaborative meeting, and/or questions to Frank Romero, District Ranger, Laramie Ranger District at

Email: feromero@fs.fed.us

Mail or hand delivery:

Attention: Michael Salazar
2468 Jackson st,
Laramie Wy, 82072

Phone: 307-745-2338

Sincerely,

Frank E. Romero, District Ranger
Laramie Ranger District

Date